

Another case of seed dispersal by harvester ants was subsequently found by Drs. Ruth Bernstein and M. L. Cody of this department in April, 1973, about 25 km south of San Felipe in the Sonoran desert of Baja California. There *Veromessor pergandei* Mayr were transporting appendaged seeds of *Datura discolor* Bernh. to the nest and discarding seeds without appendage from the nest.—STEPHEN H. BULLOCK, Biology Department, University of California, Los Angeles 90024.

REDESCRIPTION OF ERIOGONUM HOFFMANNII, A DEATH VALLEY ENDEMIC.—*Eriogonum Hoffmannii* was first collected by Ralph Hoffmann on September 30, 1931, in Wildrose Canyon on the west slope of the Panamint Mountains, Inyo County, California. The species was named and described by Susan G. Stokes (Leaf. W. Bot. 1:23. 1932). Neither the original description nor more recent ones, however, have noted the most distinctive features of the species, particularly characteristics of the calyx lobes in fruit. Apparently this buckwheat is rarely collected and little known.

Having observed it in the field on three occasions, followed by more detailed study of fresh specimens and herbarium material (including an isotype at CAS), I describe it as follows (see also fig. 1):

Annual, 1–5 dm high, glabrous except as noted; stem solitary, or with one or two lesser stems from the base, all with spreading branches; leaves basal, 1–4 cm long, equally wide, suborbicular to subcordate, densely white-tomentose below, less so above; floral bracts minute, ciliate with fine curly hairs; involucre ca 2 mm long, sessile, erect, at the nodes or terminal on short branchlets, many flowered (up to 25), 5-lobed, ciliate with fine curly hairs; calyces 1.5–2.5 mm long, divided to near the base, pale when immature, turning deep pink to wine-red with darker midribs in age; outer segments ovate to lanceolate, tapering from a squarish to slightly cordate base to a narrow blunt tip, thick and rather fleshy with a distinctive vesicular texture; inner segments shorter, thin and translucent, more or less elliptic; achenes pale, slightly longer than the calyx, ca 2 mm long, base broad, tapering to a 3-angled beak of nearly equal length. A common feature of the species is a tuft of short branches stiffly surrounding the lower node, often with lesser tufts at the nodes above and occasionally at the base with the leaves.

Variety *robustus* S. Stokes is a more robust form that grows up to 10 dm high. Besides the sturdy main stem, there are usually several lesser stems. Leaves are 2–5 cm long and 3–8 cm wide, often crisped, and may sheath the base of the stem for 1–3 cm. These larger plants are less inclined to develop the tufts of short branches at the nodes. The inflorescence and achenes are the same.

My field observations were made in the Emigrant Canyon area of the Panamint Mountains, between October 13 and November 13, in the favorable year of 1973. The species was fairly plentiful between 1067 m in the main canyon and 1463 m in a tributary wash. Variety *robustus* was common below, gradually giving way to the type variety as the elevation increased. Variety *robustus* may be merely large specimens of the species growing under more favorable circumstances, such as at lower elevations and where there may be more moisture available. The plants were associated with *Eriogonum brachypodum* T. & G. in the upper range and with *E. Rixfordii* S. Stokes lower in the canyon. *Larrea tridentata* Sesse & Mocino (Creosote Bush) grew on the slopes of the canyon but did not descend to the washes where eriogonums grew profusely. *Eriogonum Hoffmannii* matures later than most of its associates and was at its prime in mid-November.

It is probably more than an interesting coincidence that this endemic appears to be restricted to ancient lakebed formations. Perhaps its distribution is determined by an affinity for gypsum or one of its associates. Collection sites for the species are in the Panamint Mountains between 1067 m and 1524 m elevation. Variety *robustus* has also been collected at Furnace Creek Ranch, 366 m, and Ryan Wash, 457 m. Most of these locations are within the boundaries of Death Valley National Monument.—MARY DEDECKER, P.O. Box 506, Independence, California 93526.

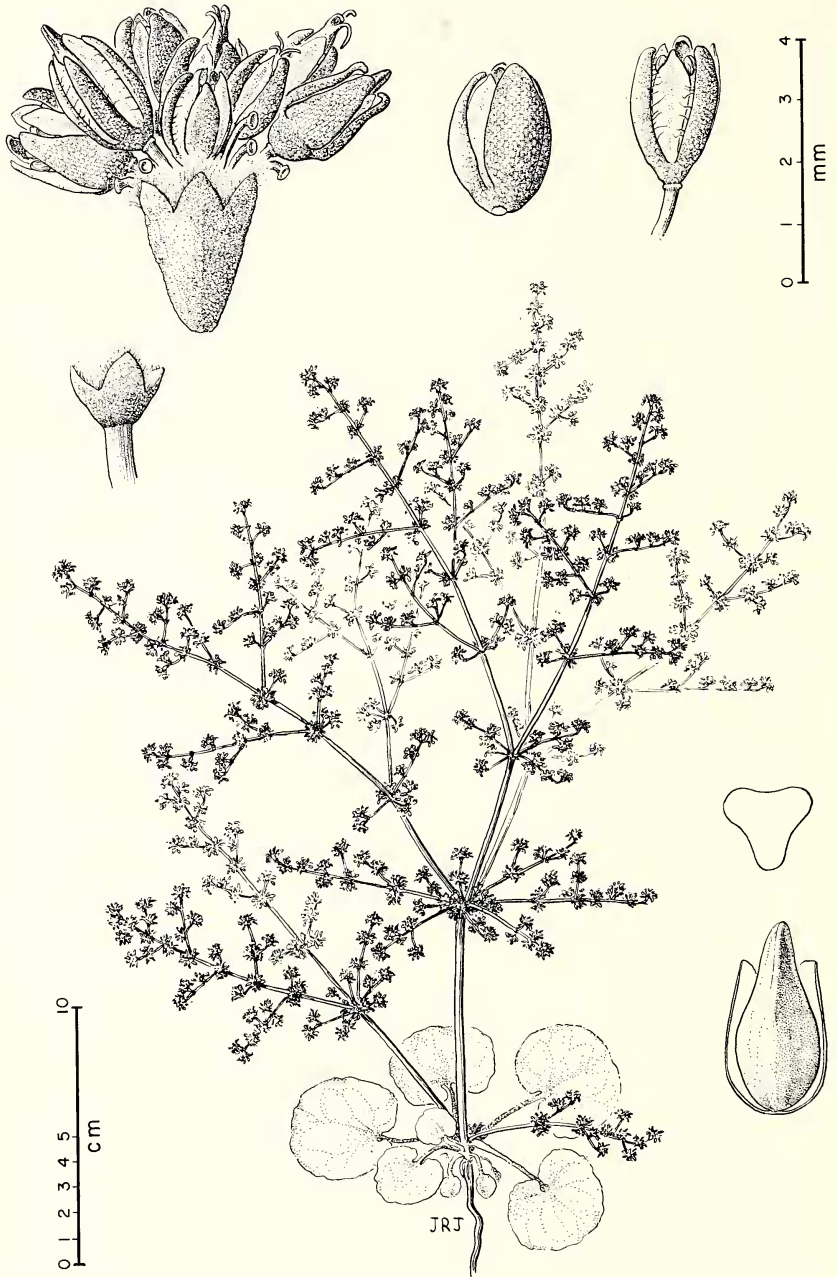


FIG. 1. Habitat and details of *Eriogonum Hoffmannii*. (Based on DeDecker 3365.)